

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Agency Overview

Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources

March 1, 2011

Gordon Myers



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

- **Agency Background**
- **Agency Board**
- **Key Funding Elements**
- **Constituency & Economic Considerations**



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Agency Purpose – derived from enabling legislation in 1947 (G.S. 143-239)

- *“to manage, restore, develop, cultivate, conserve, protect, and regulate the game, game and freshwater fishes, and other wildlife resources of the State...”*

“The purpose of the WRC is to develop and administer programs directed to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.”



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Strategic Plan

Adopted December 2009

Application & Use

- Define core functions
- Focus division planning
- Evaluate organizational structure
- Establish/support partnerships
- Communicate/educate constituents



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

N.C. Constitution Article XIV

Sec. 5. Conservation of natural resources.

“It shall be the policy of this State to conserve and protect its lands and waters for the benefit of all its citizenry...”

§ 113-131. *“(a) The marine and estuarine and wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole. The Department and the Wildlife Resources Commission are charged with stewardship of these resources.”*

§ 1-45.1. *"public trust rights" means those rights held in trust by the State for the use and benefit of the people of the State in common... They include, but are not limited to, the right to navigate, swim, hunt, fish, and enjoy all recreational activities in the watercourses of the State*



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

- Mission Statement – actions required
 - *Focus on Conservation & Opportunity*

“To conserve North Carolina’s wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.”



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Six Agency Divisions

- Law Enforcement
 - Wildlife Management
 - Inland Fisheries
 - Engineering Services
 - Conservation Education
 - Administrative Services
-
- 657 FTE (includes 15 law enforcement recruits that will become vacant after placement; post placement= 632 FTE)
 - Peak FTE of 683 employees in 2008
 - Reduced through RIF and elimination of vacancies



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Law Enforcement Division

- Public Safety
- Enforce rules and regulations established by the WRC and General Assembly
- Protect state public trust resources by gaining compliance with game, fish and boating laws
- 205 sworn field officers
- Full arrest authority for state and federal violations



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Wildlife Management Division

- Oversees management of state game and nongame species
- Manages more than 2 million acres of public game lands
- Monitors health and status of wildlife populations
- Develops and administers programs for wildlife management
- Helps resolve human-wildlife interactions through technical guidance



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Inland Fisheries Division

- Oversees management of inland fisheries and aquatic resources
- Protect and enhance aquatic and wetland habitats
- Monitors health and status of Inland fisheries
- Conserves sport fish populations and promotes and develops public fishing opportunities
- Recommends fishing regulations
- Stocks public waters with warmwater and coldwater game fish species



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Engineering Services Division

- Oversees agency facilities and operations program
- Develops and maintains statewide boating access infrastructure
- Maintains statewide Aids to Navigations program
- Manages agency capital development program

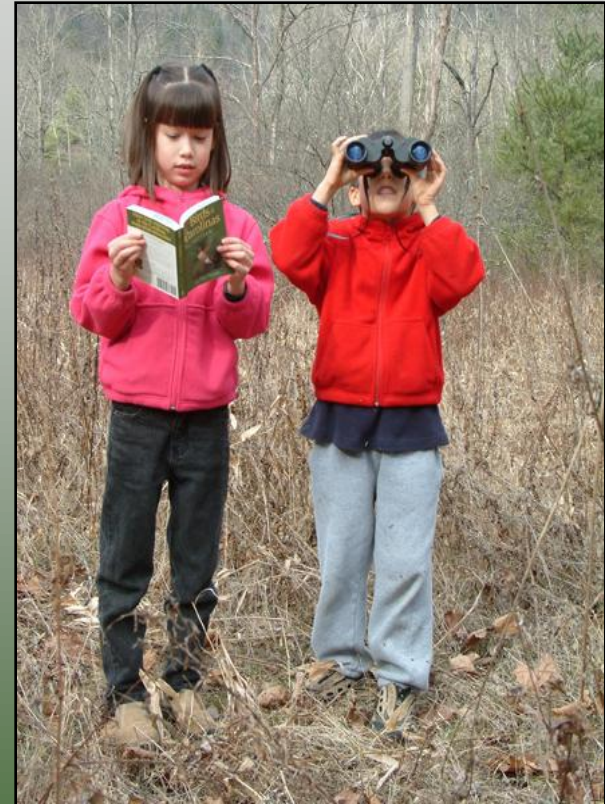


North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Conservation Education Division

- Administers education and outreach efforts designed to facilitate conservation of the state's wildlife and wild places
- Manage agency public information and communications efforts
- Administer field outreach through three education centers and regional field staff
- Produce *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine and other special publications



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Background

Administrative Services Division

- Provide administrative and financial support services
 - Hunting/fishing license sales
 - Registration/titling of vessels
 - Coastal recreation fishing license sales for Division of Marine Fisheries
- Budget management
- Agency controller oversight
- Purchasing support
- Information technology support
- Customer service support



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Agency Board

NC General Statutes Chapter 143-Article 24

§ 143-240. Creation of Wildlife Resources Commission; districts; qualifications of members.

- 19 members
- Must be experienced hunter, fisherman, farmer, or biologist, who shall be generally informed on wildlife conservation and restoration problems
- Governor appoints 9 district commissioners to serve 6-year terms
 - Staggered appointments
 - WRC Districts 1, 4, 7
 - WRC Districts 2, 5, 8
 - WRC Districts 3, 6, 9 (**Up for re-appointment in 2011**)
- Governor appoints 2 at-large commissioners to serve 4-year terms
- NC General Assembly appoints 8 commissioners to serve 2-year terms
 - 4 upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
 - 4 upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House
 - **ALL 8 legislative appointments are up for reappointment this session**



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Agency Board

NC General Statutes Chapter 143-Article 24

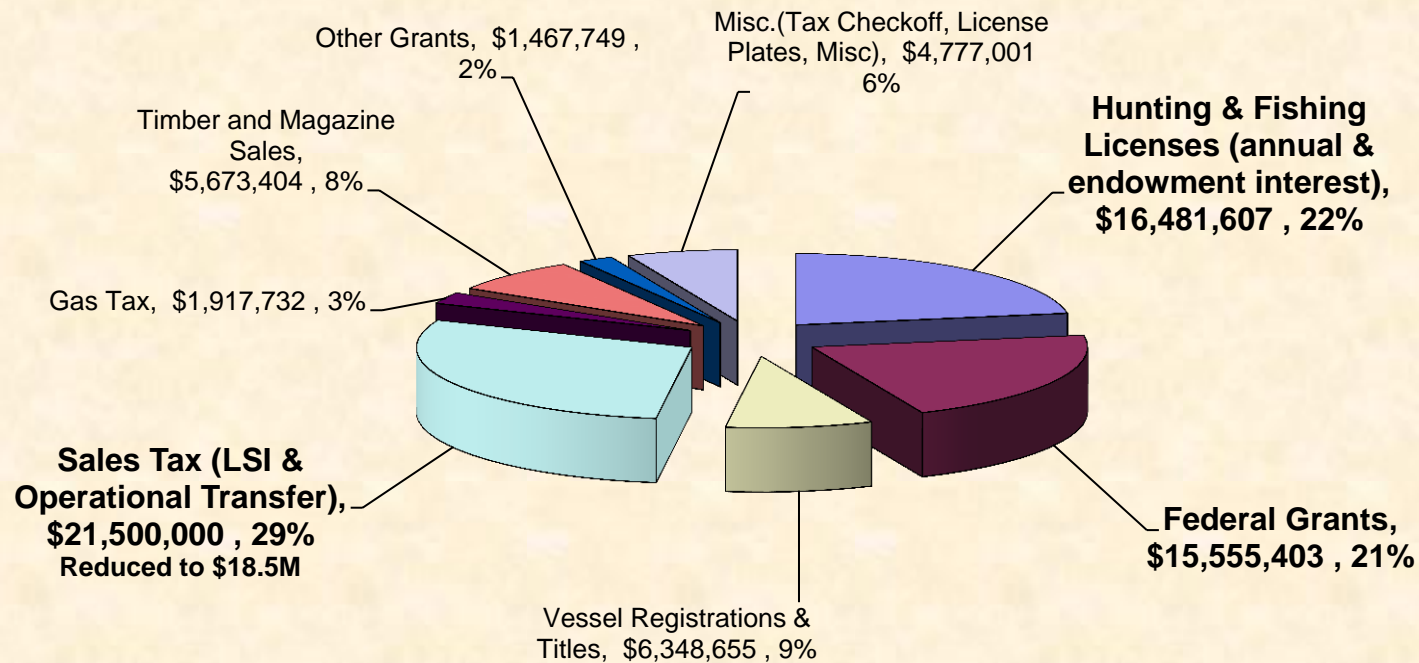
- The commission chairman shall guide and coordinate the official actions and official activities of the Commission in fulfilling its program responsibility for
 - appointment and separation of the executive director
 - organizing the personnel of the Commission
 - setting the statewide policy of the Commission
 - budgeting and planning the use of the Wildlife and Motorboat Funds
 - holding public hearings
 - **adopting rules as authorized by law**
- The commission may delegate administrative powers to executive director
- Commission shall conduct at least two meetings annually (average = 7)
- Board Expenses in FY 2009-10: \$27,777



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Funding

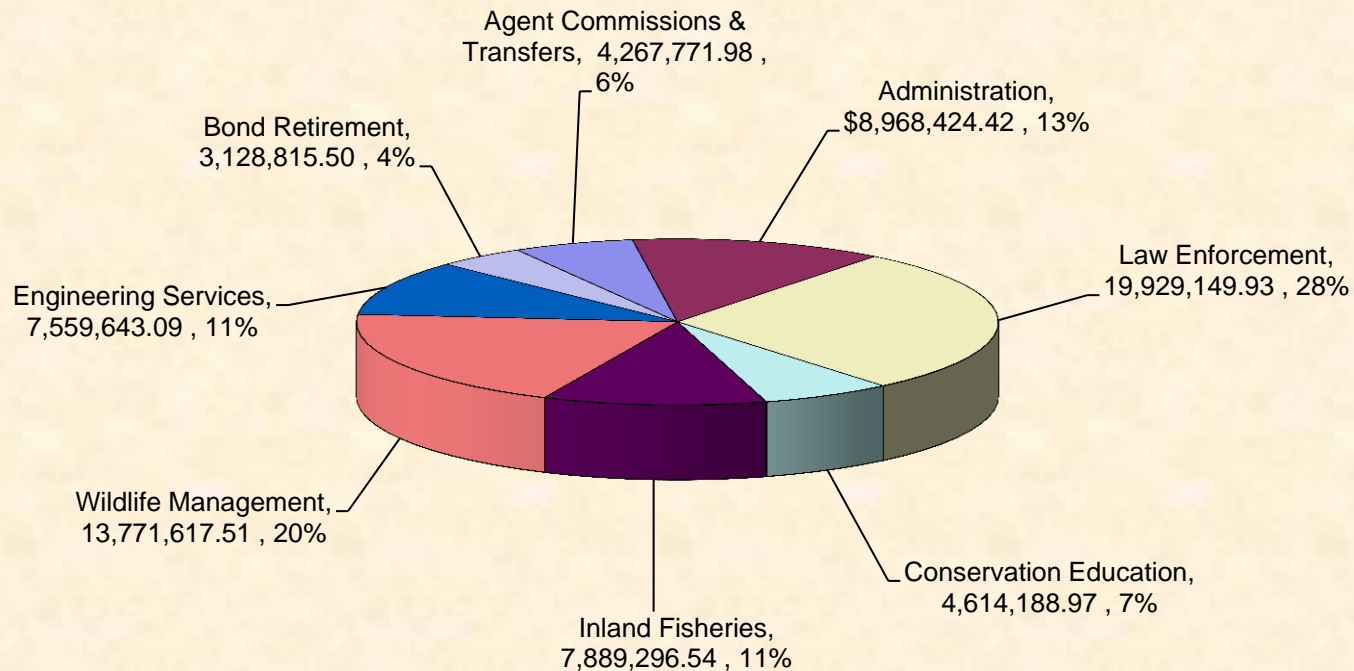
NCWRC FY 2009-2010 Revenues

Total = \$73,721,551.81



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Funding

NCWRC 2009-2010 Operating Expenditures
Total = \$70,128,907



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Funding

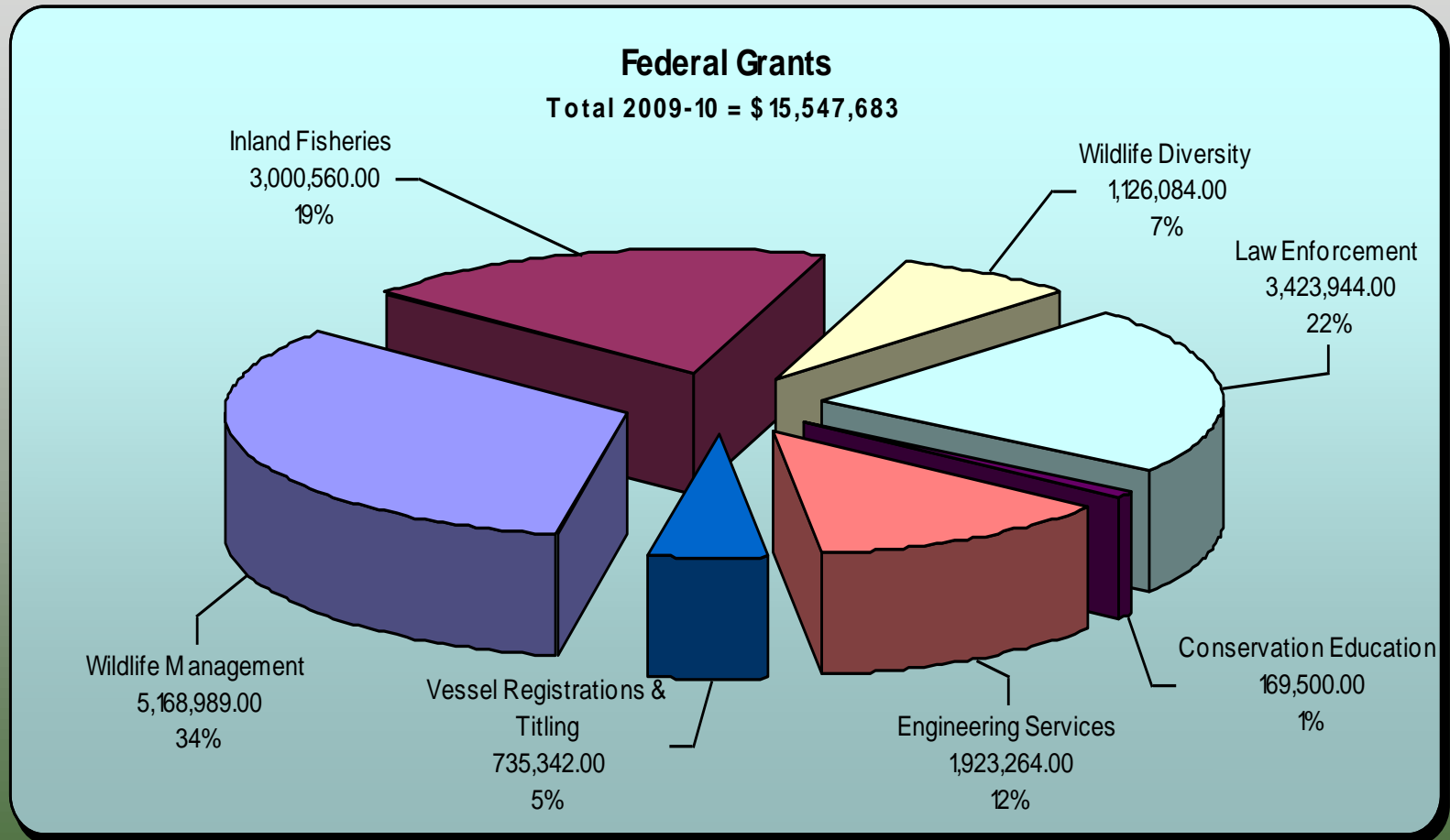
Federal Grants- (\$15.6M)

A User Pay Funding Model

- Early in 20th Century- sportsmen led crusade for advances in conservation
- Passage of Federal Aid in Wildlife Management Act in 1937 (Pittman-Robertson)
- Linked wildlife policy, hunting license sales and federal excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and other sporting goods
- Eligibility for these funds required state assent legislation prohibiting the use of license money for purposes other than wildlife management
- Assent provisions included in establishing 1947 legislation establishing the WRC
- Congressional passage of companion legislation for fisheries management, Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingel-Johnson) in 1950
- Additional federal grants include: State Wildlife Grants, Coast Guard Boating Safety, Farm Bill and others



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Funding



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Funding

Hunting & Fishing License Sales- (\$16.5M)

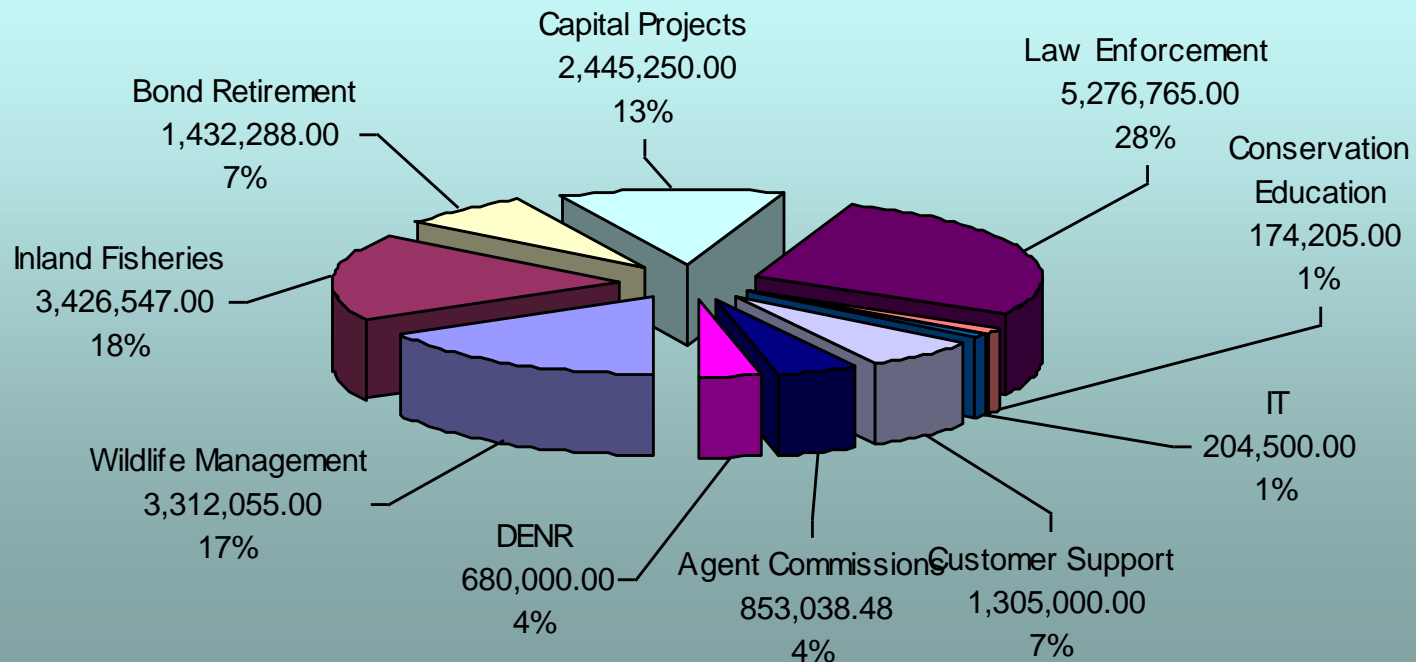
A User Pay Funding Model

- The combination of hunting and fishing license sales and federal grants forms the core funding elements of state fish and wildlife agencies
- Combination of license receipts and federal grants (\$32.1M in FY2009-10)
- Although most wildlife species are not hunted or fished, most funding for wildlife conservation continues to originate from hunters and anglers (Responsive Management 2006)



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Funding

Hunting & Fishing Licenses (annual + endowment interest transfer) Total 2009-10 = \$16,481,607.45



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Funding

Sales and Use Tax- \$21.5M FY09-10; \$18.5M FY10-11

A User pay Funding Model

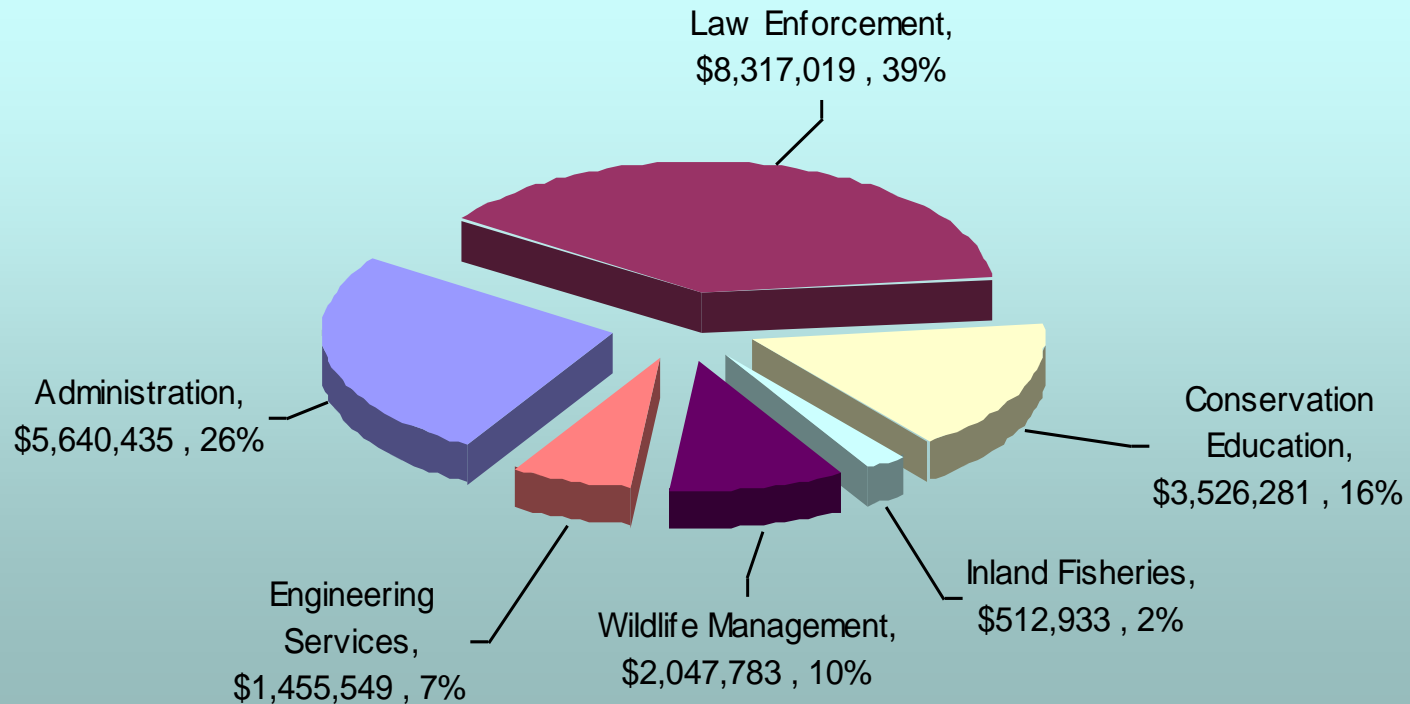
- § 105-164.44B. Transfer to Wildlife Resources Fund of taxes on hunting and fishing supplies and equipment.
- Each fiscal year, the Secretary of Revenue shall transfer at the end of each quarter from the State sales and use tax net collections received by the Department of Revenue under Article 5 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes to the State Treasurer for the Wildlife Resources Fund, one fourth of the amount transferred the preceding fiscal year plus or minus the percentage of that amount by which the total collection of State sales and use taxes increased or decreased during the preceding fiscal year.
- **S13 reduces FY11 transfer an additional \$5M to \$13.5M**
- **2008 transfer: \$24.7M**
- **2011 transfer: \$13.5M (45% reduction)**



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Funding

Sales Tax Distribution by Division

Total 2009-2010 = \$ 21,500,000.00



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Funding

Top Funding Priority-

Sustain a successful user pay funding model

(WRC budget contains no direct General Fund appropriations)

WRC does not receive or rely upon many of the funding mechanisms available to other General Fund supported state agencies:

- Annual General Fund Appropriations
- Legislative Capital Appropriation
- Repair and Renovation Funds from the General Fund
- Department of Administration Facility Management Services
- Information Technology Services
- Salary Adjustment Funds
- State Employee Health Plan Contributions
- Attorney General & State Property Office Support



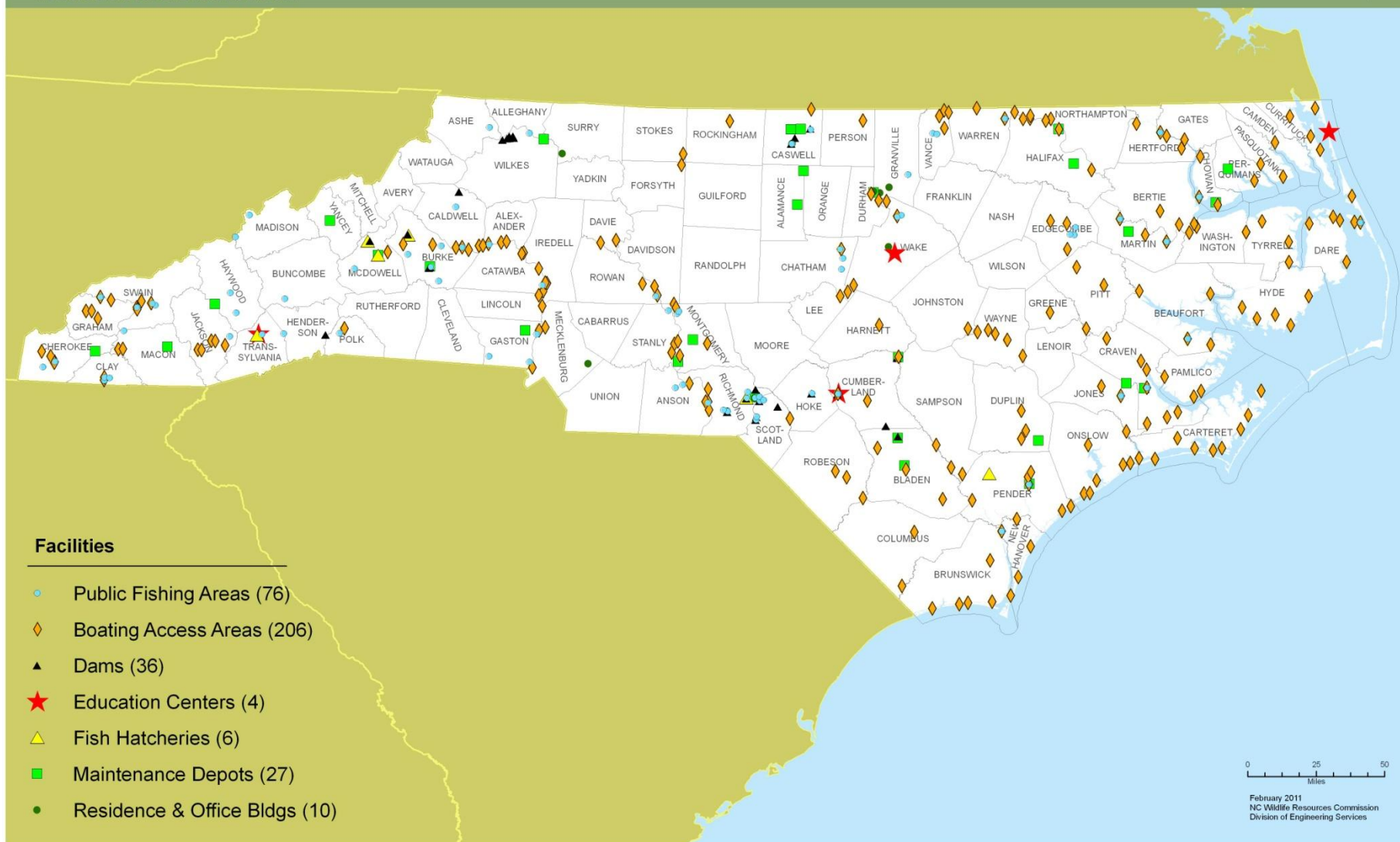
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Funding

WRC does rely on our funding model to take care of our expansive statewide infrastructure:

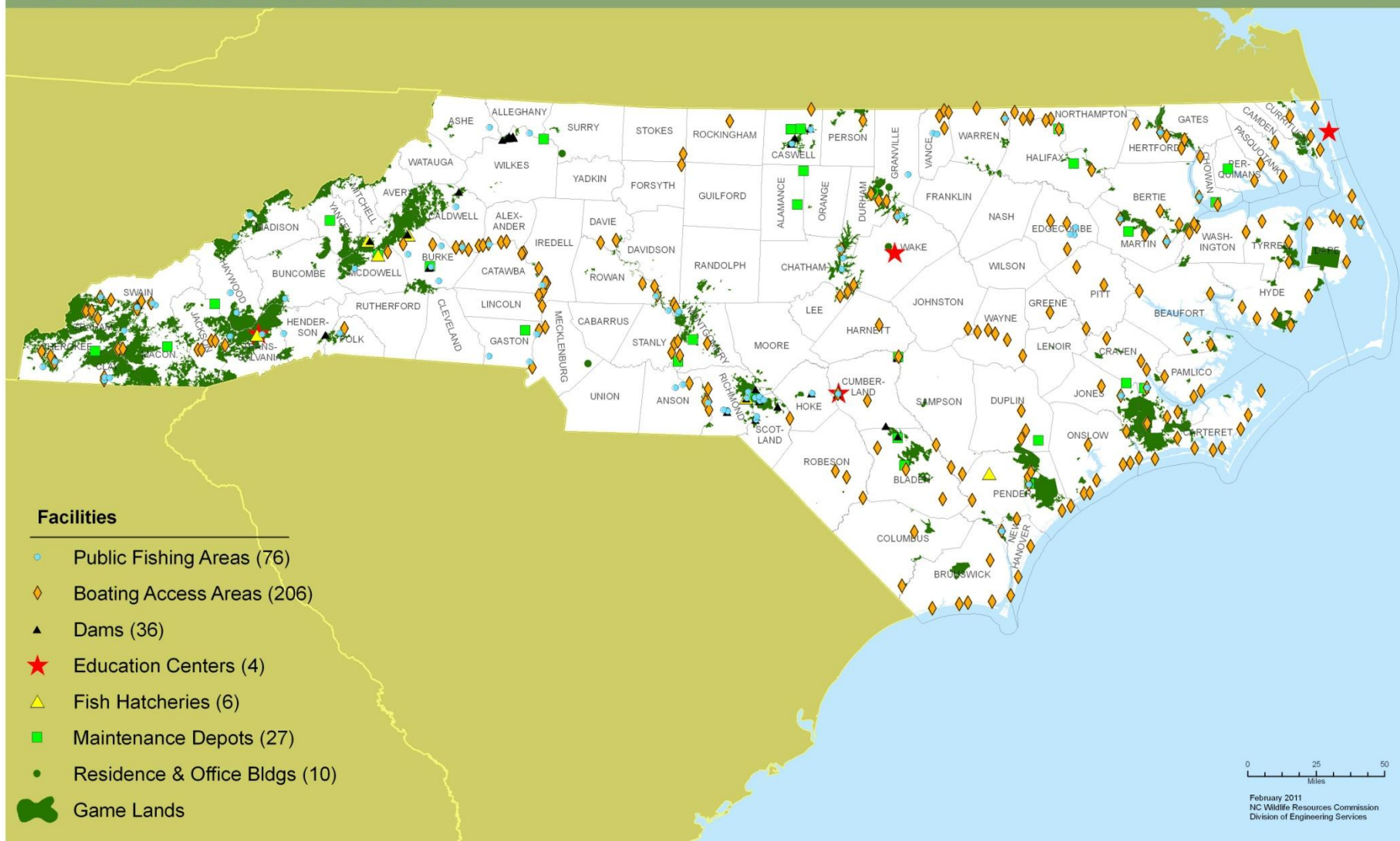
- 2 million acres of public game lands:
 - 471,101 acres managed under WRC ownership
 - 1,435,196 acres managed under cooperative agreement
- 49 lakes and ponds; including 44 dams
- 73 waterfowl impoundments
- 1,044 miles of unpaved roads
- 91 bridges and 1,413 culverts
- 228 parking areas and 28 campgrounds
- 207 public boating access areas
- 65 public fishing areas
- 4 education centers
- 6 State Fish Hatcheries 137 buildings that range from storage building and field stations to state fish hatcheries and a 73,000 sq. ft. office building





Statewide Infrastructure

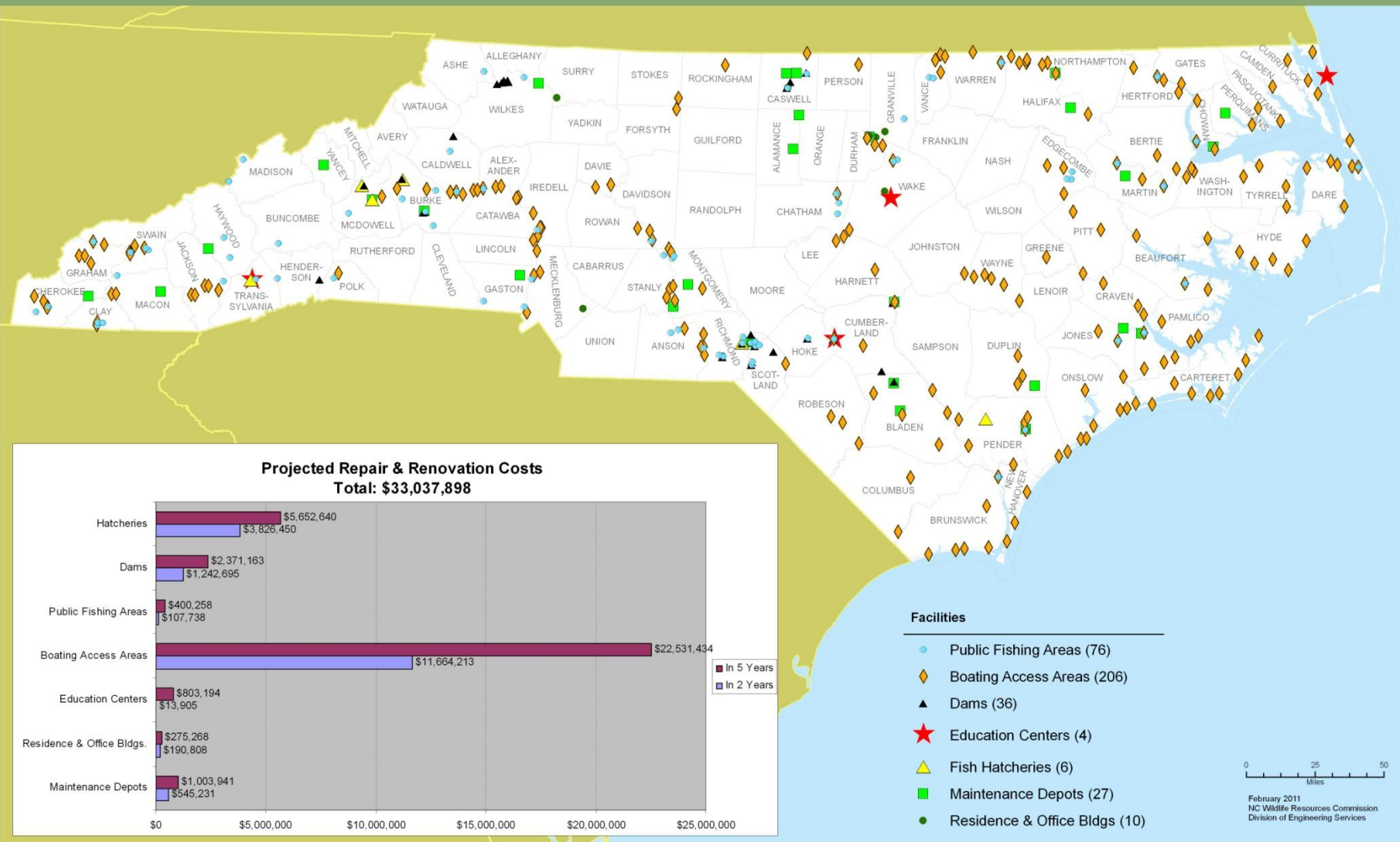




Statewide Infrastructure with game lands



Wildlife Resources Commission Infrastructure Distribution & 5-year Cost Projection



Statewide Infrastructure Projected 5-year Repair and Renovation Costs



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

North Carolina sportsmen

1 million hunters & anglers spending \$4.7 million a day



TOTAL SPENDING \$1.7 billion

Casting
benefits
throughout
the economy.

- Sportsmen support more jobs in North Carolina than the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University and the Duke University Medical Center combined (29,000 jobs vs. 26,500).
- Annual spending by North Carolina sportsmen is more than revenues of Trinity-based Sealy (\$1.7 billion vs. \$1.6 billion).
- Sportsmen in North Carolina spend more each year than the combined cash receipts for greenhouse/nursery and turkeys, two of the most valuable agricultural commodities in the state (\$1.7 billion vs. \$1.5 billion).
- North Carolina sportsmen spend \$313 million annually on outboard boats and engines to get out on the water and around the marshes for fishing and hunting.
- North Carolina sportsmen could fill every seat at Lowes Motor Speedway more than 6 times (1 million vs. 165,000).

Lots of bang. Even more bucks.

Jobs	29,000
Salaries and wages	\$818 million
Federal Taxes	\$194 million
State and Local Taxes	\$170 million
Ripple Effect	\$2.8 billion

Sportsmen as a Constituency

Resident Anglers:	868,000
Resident Hunters:	277,000
Registered Vessels:	360,000

As an Economic Force

NC Angler Retail Spending:	\$1.2B
NC Hunter Retail Spending:	\$512M
All Wildlife Related Retail Spending:	\$2.6B
Associated Salaries and Wages:	\$1.3B

Hunting and Fishing in NC supports:

29,000 jobs

\$170 Million in state and local revenue

\$2.8 Billion ripple effect in economy



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MOUNTAIN TROUT FISHING IN NORTH CAROLINA

Executive Summary

MOUNTAIN FISHERIES INVESTIGATIONS

Federal Aid in Fish Restoration
Project F-86

Period Covered: November 2008–June 2009

Prepared for:
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Prepared by:
Responsive Management and Southwick Associates



2009



Cost-Benefit Example: Mountain trout anglers' contribution to North Carolina's economy (Responsive Management 2008)

- 92,769 mountain trout anglers
- 76,761 residents
- 16,008 nonresidents fished for
- 1.42 million fishing days

**Direct spending: \$146 million
Total economic output: \$174 million**

**To sustain this fishery, the WRC produces
and stocks more than 800,000 catchable
size trout**

- Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatchery
- Armstrong State Fish Hatchery
- Marion State Fish Hatchery

